

From: Schmidt, Clayton
To: [Bowman, Randal](#)
Subject: DOI-2017-0002-81071-A1
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Attachments: [DOI-2017-0002-81071-A1 \(1\).pdf](#)

Accidentally closed out of Discover text before coding this interesting comment. Please look over the PDF.

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Clayton Schmidt
Planning & Environmental Specialist
National Conservation Lands
Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
Office: 202-912-7414
E-mail: cfschmidt@blm.gov

May 10, 2017

Attention: Secretary Ryan Zinke

Thank you for taking time to visit San Juan County and your interest in the issue of the Bear's Ears National Monument. As you were leaving the crowd of concerned citizens in Blanding, I placed an old outdated map in your hand to familiarize you with the looks of this county. It wasn't much use without an explanation. In this letter I am enclosing two more updated maps which you may already have. If not I would like to share some of my concerns about the profile of this entire Bears Ears issue.

But first let me introduce myself to you as an old time citizen of San Juan County. I moved to Blanding to teach school in 1970. During my years as a teacher, I also served as the San Juan District Scout Executive. This position allowed me to explore most of the county. San Juan County is positioned on top of an Anasazi civilization. Basically covered with at least twelve hundred years of blowing sand. There is hardly an area of the county that is free from the remains of the past civilization. It is preserved in its own way. If the present antiquity laws would have been in place since 1880 there wouldn't be a house or a road in San Juan County. We cannot stop all progress for fear of running over a piece of broken pottery. When I came to Blanding during the 1960's and 70's, it was a boom town with gas, oil, and mining. It was the richest county in the state. You can fact check that if you wish. Now it is the poorest county in the state, and we are on our way to locking up all of our potential resources by trading them for recreation. This I want to comment about:

You will notice on the larger map that I am presenting to you that we have hardly any public border land left around our entire county. We are boxed in by Canyon Lands National Park, Glen Canyon National Recreation area, Grand Gulch Primitive area, the Navajo Reservation, and the Ute Mountain Indian Reservation. We also have a very large piece of land that takes a large portion of the southern end of the county called the Cedar Mesa area. This is designated a wilderness study area at present. It has all of the same regulations and restrictions as wilderness designated land. You will also notice that there is a large area in the middle of the county that is designated wilderness, and just north of that is another area called Dark Canyon Primitive area. The same rules apply to that chunk of land as wilderness designated itself.

If this Bears Ears proposal goes through as shown on the smaller map, the private lands that will be left in this county will be the small bit of land left in white color on the east side of our county. Thankfully this is still privately owned for dry farming and private grazing and businesses. Only 8% of this gigantic county is privately owned. I have lived here for 46 years in this county and I have seen the greater part of this county made less accessible to public access.

Another concern are the SITLA parcels of land (640 acres each) which are scattered throughout our whole county. We can't allow them to be tied up because they are allocated to fund education in the State of Utah.

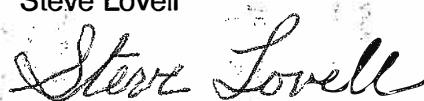
People in this county are on edge because we have seen what has happened over the years. Environmental organizations are an overpowering national political movement that are backed by rich and famous people. They can push us little people clear off the map. That is their intention. It seems to be a religious dedication to their purpose. Now the environmentalists have pooled the Indian Tribes from several areas far beyond our state and county into a coalition allowing them to think they will be a major decision making body on what happens to this land. They have pitted this coalition against the local population of this county. The majority of Anglo and Native American county citizens are against this proposal because we know this will take away what access we have left. We are not against the Bears Ears being a National Monument, but it should be more the size of the Natural Bridges National Monument shown on the enclosed maps.

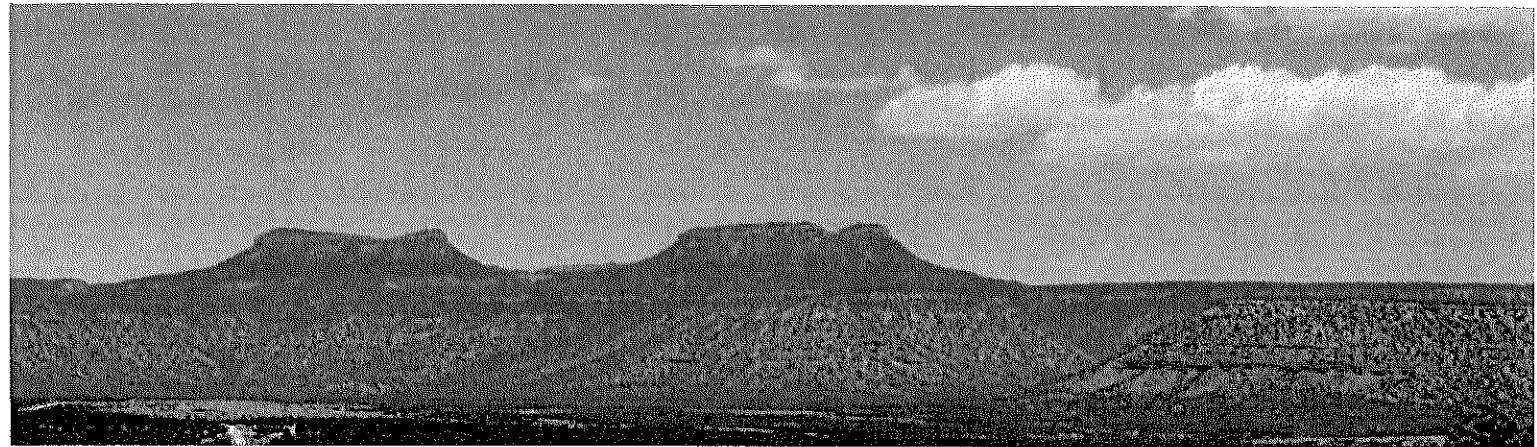
We local people are a very small voice because there aren't many of us. We are a hard working lower income population in this county. We are actually quite defenseless against the rich and powerful people who are pushing environmental issues that tie up the land and it's resources that we depend on for our future.

I'm sure that you can look at these maps and understand why we have a great concern about our future. We do need your help. This is a common-sense issue that needs to be negotiated in a very fair way.

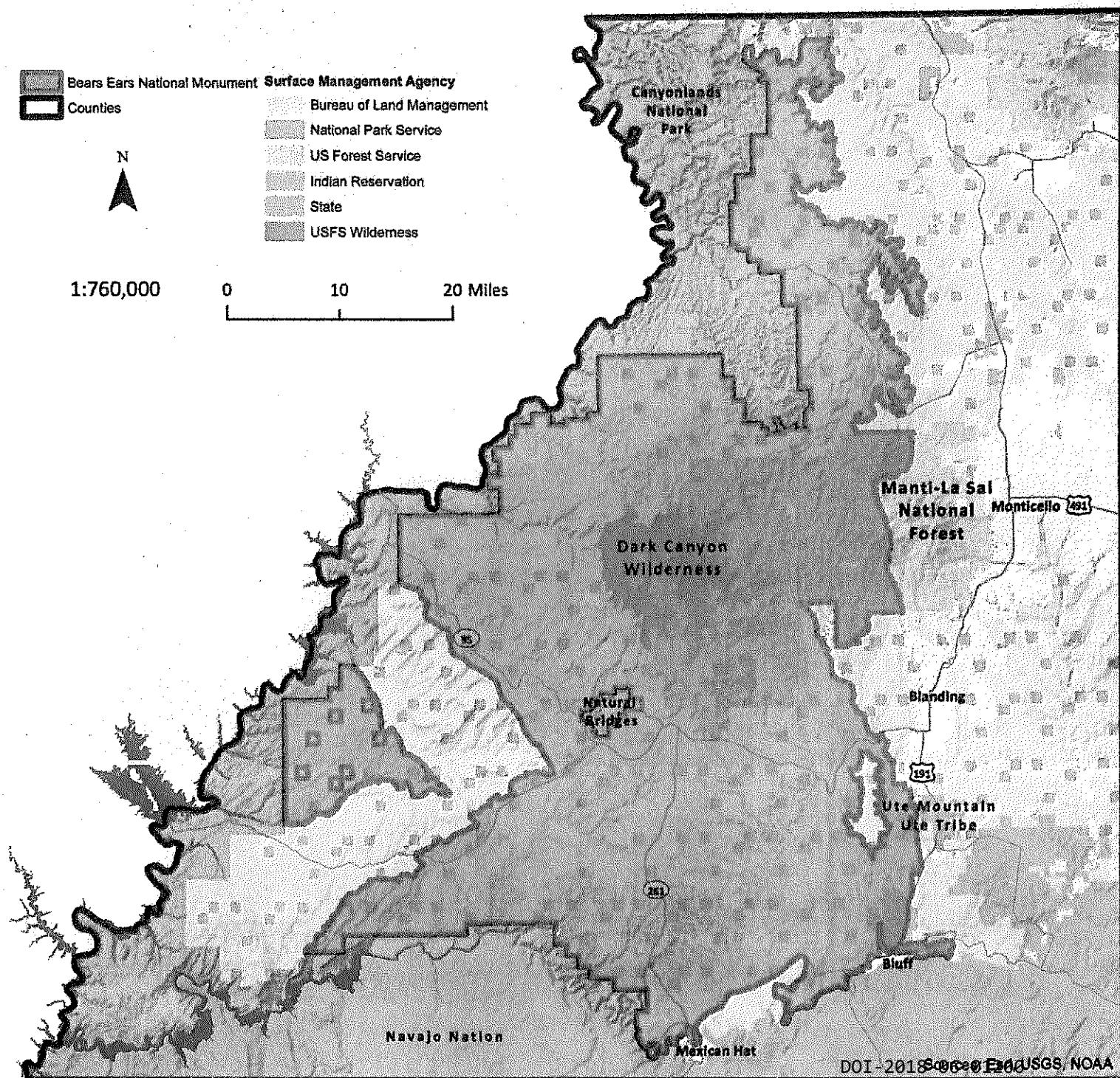
Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Concerned Citizen,
Steve Lovell





Bears Ears National Monument

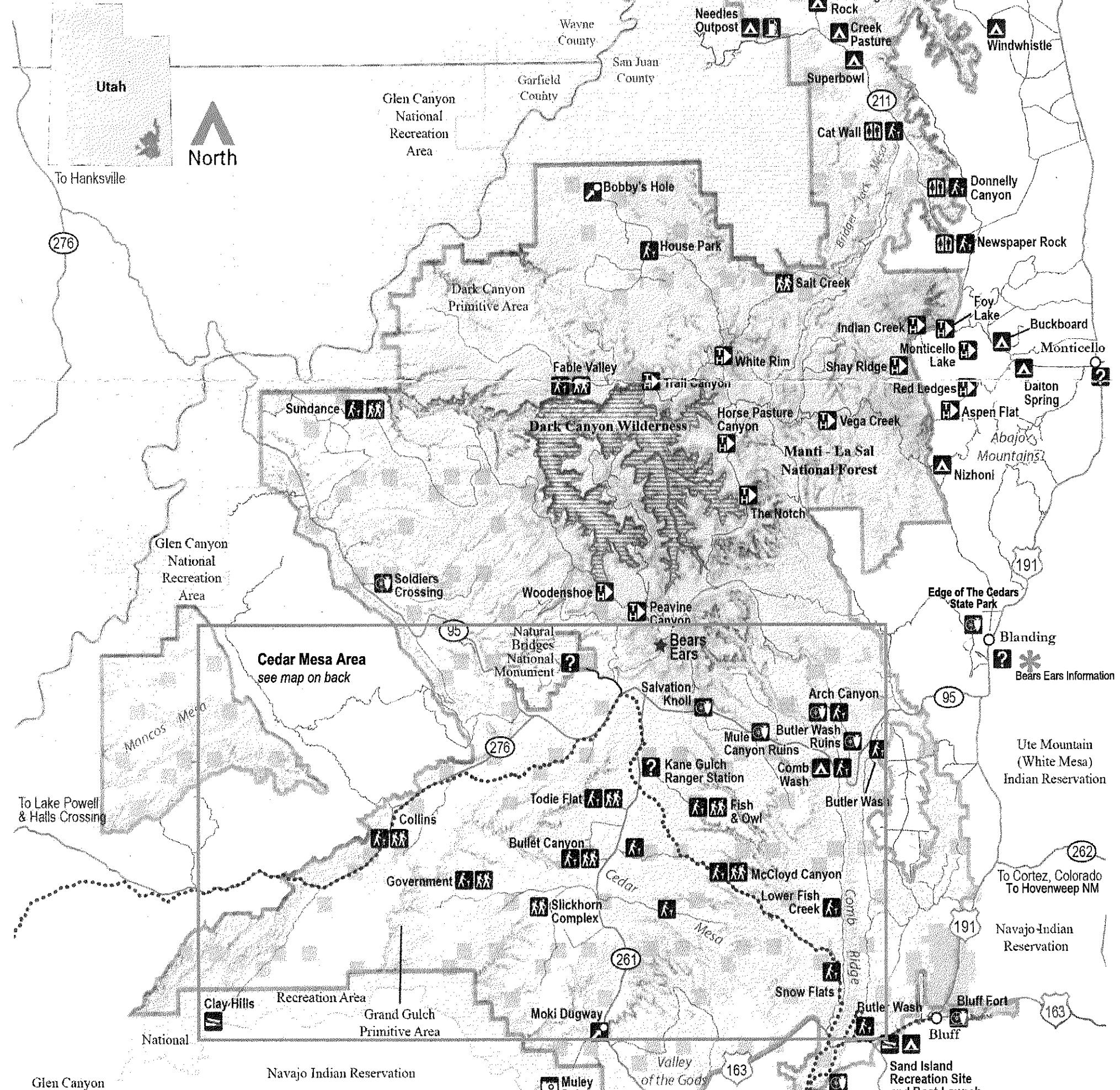


Bears Ears National Monument

Legend

- Information Center
- Boat Launch
- Campground
- Gasoline
- Hiking Trail
- Historic Site
- Kiosk
- Overlook / Scenic View
- Point-of-Interest
- Restrooms or Toilet
- Bears Ears National Monument Boundary
- Hole-in-the-Rock Trail
- County Boundary
- Highway
- Local or Rural Route
- State Land
- National Park, National Recreation Area, or Wilderness Area

0 5 10 Miles



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To Navajo Indian Reservation, Arizona

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